

## Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/070\_056

Examiner

GARCIA ADE

Applicant(s)

MIZUNO ET AL.

Art Unit

3687

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/10/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Matthew S Gart/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3687

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

### *Acknowledgements*

1. The Office Action sent on **03.22.2010** has been vacated in light of this new Office because claims 17, 22 and 23 were inadvertently cancelled.
2. Applicants' amendment filed **12.10.2009** has been entered. Accordingly, claims **17, 22 and 23** have been amended.

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

### *In the title:*

The application has been amended as follows: the title has been changed to:

--Television and Lifetime estimating method of a television--

### ***Examiner's Statement of reason for Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The most relevant reference is the **Cheung [US 6,524,872]** reference. Cheung's invention relates to the measurement and monitoring of plasma-damage, and to the evaluation of the lifetime of integrated circuits under nominal operating conditions.

Cheung discloses a method which calculates the intrinsic, or damage-free, lifetime of a particular transistor device by measuring the change in transconductance as a function of time for a given device over a short period of time [see the abstract].

However, Cheung neither anticipates or fairly and reasonably teaches as to “the determination of a remaining life of an integrated circuit”; “estimating a remaining life of the television”; “evaluating the total current-ON time of a completed device in use by consumers”; and “information indicating whether the total current-ON time of the television has exceeded the predetermined lifetime of the transistor”.

Thus, the combination of claimed features is not disclosed in a reasonable manner.

The cited but not applied NPL document art “The similarity and heterogeneity theses in studying innovation Evidence from the end-of-life vehicle case” by Frank Den Hond. Technology Analysis & Strategic Management. Abingdon: Dec 1998. Vol. 10, Iss. 4; pg. 529, 15 pgs.

However, Den Hond neither anticipates or fairly and reasonably teaches as to “the determination of a remaining life of an integrated circuit”; “estimating a remaining life of the television”; “evaluating the total current-ON time of a completed device in use by consumers”; and “information indicating whether the total current-ON time of the television has exceeded the predetermined lifetime of the transistor”.

Thus, the combination of claimed features is not disclosed in a reasonable manner.

For this reason, **claims 17 and 22** are deemed to be allowable over prior art of record and **claims 18-21 and 23** are allowed by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance".

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GARCIA ADE whose telephone number is (571)272-5586. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571.272.3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Matthew S Gart/

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